STATE OF MAINE SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT AMENDMENT TO MAINE RULES OF PROBATE PROCEDURE

2013 Me. Rules 08

Effective: December 20, 2013

All of the Justices concurring therein, the following amendment to the Maine Rules of Probate Procedure is hereby adopted to be effective on the date indicated above. The specific rule amendment is stated below. To aid in understanding of the amendment, an Advisory Note appears after the text of the amendment. The Advisory Note states the reason for recommending the amendment, but it is not part of the amendment adopted by the Court.

1. Rule 92.1 of the Maine Rules of Probate Procedure is amended to read as follows:

RULE 92.1. APPLICABILITY; EFFECTIVE DATES; TITLE

- (a) Cumberland, Oxford, Penobscot, and York Counties. The Probate Courts of Cumberland, Oxford, Penobscot, and York Counties shall make electronic filing available as of May 1, 2012, and these rules apply to all civil and probate proceedings commenced in Probate Courts in those counties after the date indicated.
- (1) Electronic filing in accordance with these rules is permitted in all cases commenced between May 1, 2012, and December 31, 2013 September 30, 2014.
- (2) Electronic filing in accordance with these rules is required in all cases commenced on or after <u>January October</u> 1, 2014.
- (b) Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Piscataquis, Sagadahoc, Somerset, Waldo, and Washington Counties. The Probate Courts of Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Piscataquis, Sagadahoc, Somerset, Waldo, and Washington Counties shall make electronic filing available as of May 1, 2013, and these rules

apply to all civil and probate proceedings commenced in Probate Courts in those counties after the dates indicated:

- (1) Electronic filing in accordance with these rules is permitted in all cases commenced between May 1, 2013, and April September 30, 2014.
- (2) Electronic filing in accordance with these rules is required in all cases commenced on or after May October 1, 2014.
- **(c) Short title.** These rules may be known and cited as the Maine Probate Rules for Electronic Filing.

Advisory Committee Note – December 2013

This Amendment to Rule 92.1 revises the timing for mandatory e-filing for attorneys in all of Maine's Probate Courts. E-filing was originally set to become mandatory in all Probate Courts for attorneys (except for certain filers who are exempt pursuant to Rule 92.3) commencing on May 1, 2014. The Advisory Committee on Probate Rules determined that further upgrades in the e-filing process focusing on a questionnaire type format and with access via the "cloud" were preferred prior to making the e-filing compulsory. All other portions of Rule 92.1 shall remain the same.

2. This amendment shall take effect on December 20, 2013.

Dated: December 20, 2013

FOR THE COURT¹

LEIGHT. SAUFLEY

Chief Justice

DONALD G. ÁLEXANDER

JON D. LEVY

WARREN M. SILVER

ANDREW M. MEAD

ELLEN A. GORMAN

JOSEPH M. JABAR

¹ This Rules Amendment Order is approved after conference of the Court, all Justices concurring therein.